



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Release – 42-13
August 30, 2013

Navy Releases Atlantic Fleet Testing and Training Final Environmental Impact Statement

The U.S. Navy has prepared and released to the public a Final Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) for training and testing activities conducted in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. The AFTT region covers approximately 2.6 million square nautical miles and encompasses the at-sea portions of Navy training range complexes and research, development, testing and evaluation ranges along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of the United States.

The AFTT EIS/OEIS updates the science and analyses of environmental studies that were completed in 2009. This environmental analysis will enable at-sea testing and training so the U.S. Navy can effectively prepare forces to meet national requirements. The results of this study, which incorporates the best available science, coupled with Navy's demonstrated track record (60plus years) of similar training and testing with minimal environmental impacts, indicate that the activities proposed in this EIS/OEIS will continue to have minimal effects on marine mammal and other marine species populations. Monitoring of Navy activities over the past five years supports these conclusions. Computer modeling of Navy activities indicates that marine mammals may be exposed to sonar sound during training and testing, however scientific analysis shows that the vast majority of those marine mammals modeled exposures will not be injured in any way.

The Navy proposes to conduct at-sea training and testing activities; which include:

- 1) The use of active sonar and explosives – primarily within existing training range complexes and testing ranges along the east coast of the United States, the Gulf of Mexico, pierside locations, port transit channels, lower Chesapeake Bay, Narragansett Bay and St. Andrew Bay.
- 2) Activities such as sonar maintenance and gunnery exercises conducted concurrently with ship transits and which may occur outside the Navy training range complex and testing ranges.
- 3) Pierside sonar testing conducted as part of ship and submarine construction, maintenance, repair, and modernization activities at shipyards, Navy piers, and Navy-contracted shipbuilder locations.

Public input was a valuable part of the EIS process, and the Navy accepted input throughout a 60-day comment period, conducted from May 11, 2012 to July 10, 2012. The Final EIS/OEIS addresses comments received during this period. The Final EIS/OEIS is available for review at www.AFTTEIS.com. Hard copies of the document are available at the following local libraries:

Portland Public Library
5 Monument Sq.
Portland, ME 04101

Camden County Public Library
1410 Hwy. 40 E.

Kingsland, GA 31548

Boston Public Library, Central Library
700 Boylston St.
Boston, MA 02116

Charleston County Public Library, Main Library
68 Calhoun St.
Charleston, SC 29401

Public Library of New London
63 Huntington St.
New London, CT 06320

Jacksonville Public Library, Main Library
303 N. Laura St.
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Anne Arundel County Public Library,
Annapolis Area Branch
1410 West St.
Annapolis, MD 21401

Bay County Public Library
898 West 11th St.
Panama City, FL 32401

Mary D. Pretlow Anchor Branch Library
111 W. Ocean View Ave.
Norfolk, VA 23503

Walton County Coastal Branch Library
437 Greenway Trail
Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459

Kill Devil Hills Branch Library
400 Mustian St.
Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948

West Florida Public Library, Southwest Branch
12248 Gulf Beach Hwy.
Pensacola, FL 32507

Hatteras Library
57709 Hwy. 12
Hatteras, NC 27943

West Florida Public Library, Main Library
200 W. Gregory St.
Pensacola, FL 32502

Havelock-Craven County Public Library
301 Cunningham Blvd.
Havelock, NC 28532

Ben May Main Library
701 Government St.
Mobile, AL 36602

Onslow County Public Library
58 Doris Ave. E.
Jacksonville, NC 28540

Meridian-Lauderdale County Public Library
2517 7th St.
Meridian, MS 39301

Carteret County Public Library
1702 Live Oak St., Ste. 100
Beaufort, NC 28516

East Bank Regional Library
4747 W. Napoleon Ave.
Metairie, LA 70001

Webb Memorial Library and Civic Center
812 Evans St.
Morehead City, NC 28557

New Orleans Public Library, Main Library
219 Loyola Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70112

New Hanover County Public Library
201 Chestnut St.
Wilmington, NC 28401

Corpus Christi Public Library, La Retama Library
805 Comanche
Corpus Christi, TX 78401

Southmost Branch Library
4320 Southmost Blvd.
Brownsville, TX 78522

A Record of Decision is expected to be issued by the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Energy, Installations and Environment) in November 2013 and will be announced in the Federal Register.

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